



For immediate release
Contact: Laura Long, 913-248-2360, llong@cityofshawnee.org

Historic Ground Breaking at Shawnee Town

August 24, 2010 – Shawnee, KS / Shawnee Town Museum will break ground on a 1929 Farmstead at 8:00am on Thursday, September 30.

The 1929 Farmstead is part of the strategic plan for Shawnee Town that was approved by Shawnee City Council in 2004. Under the plan the Museum's focus has shifted from the prairie years to life in a small farm community in the 1920s. Thanks to a generous donation from the Deffenbaugh Foundation and careful planning and budgeting by the City, construction is moving ahead. The Konrath Group was awarded the contract of \$469,417 for the first phase of the Farmstead. This includes site work and electrical for the Hart Home, Bender Barn, and Smokehouse.

"This project is a great example of community collaboration," explains Museum Director, Gay Clemenson. "City Council, The Friends of Shawnee Town, former and current residents and Museum staff have been working for years to make this a reality."

The second phase of the Farmstead will include a recreated market shed, chicken coop, outhouse, root cellar, tool shed and garage. When completed The Farmstead will give visitors a chance to step into the world of a 1920s Shawnee truck farmer. Future plans also call for improvements to the 'Town' area that will include Dr Sullivan's home, Yotz Typewriter Repair, Bousman's Barber Shop, an Ice House and City Jail.

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“The 1929 Farmstead will be unique to our region and a real point of pride for Shawnee,” predicts Shawnee Mayor, Jeff Meyers.

City leaders will be invited to help ‘break’ the farm soil with a 1920s era cultivator. The Friends of Shawnee Town will provide farm breads with homemade fruit preserves and fresh-ground coffee at the ground breaking. There will also be a banjo player from the Rhythm Room Quartet strumming tunes from the 1920s and vintage vehicles will be providing rides through Museum grounds that morning. The event is open to the public.

For more information about the ground breaking please call 913-248-2360.

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Shawnee Town is an outdoor museum interpreting small town rural life in the 1920s. Situated on 8 acres, the Museum features a home, barn, school, post office, chapel, fire station, various businesses, and gardens. For more information on Shawnee Town call 913-248-2360